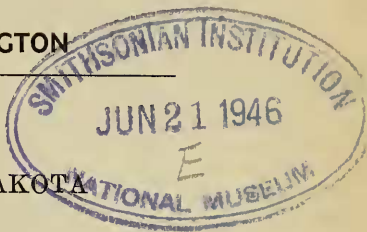


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW BADGER FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

By VIOLA S. SCHANTZ

In studying the badgers of South Dakota I discovered an unrecognized form in the Badlands area which is described as follows:

Taxidea taxus dacotensis, subsp. nov.

Type.—No. 223233, U. S. National Museum, Biological Surveys collection; male adult (coronal sutures fused), skull only; collected at Folsom, Custer County, South Dakota, September 9, 1916, by T. C. Beach. Original no. 26; Biological Surveys miscel. no. 17782X.

Distribution.—Badlands region of western South Dakota. Transition, Upper, and Sonoran life zones. In the Saskatchewan biotic province (Dice).

Diagnostic characters.—A light-colored subspecies, and smaller than *Taxidea taxus taxus*.

Color.—Topotype No. 225838, U. S. National Museum, Biological Surveys collection (skin only) winter pelage: Facial area, including forehead (except median line), around the eyes, and patches on sides of head in front of ears, brownish-black, less accentuated than in *taxus*, irregular white markings of cheeks confluent with white throat; underfur of general dorsal area and sides pale ivory-yellow, though at base a buffy brown; the guard hair basal color also buffy brown, fading into ivory-yellow, and becoming black subterminally and white at the tip; this black band is narrower than in *taxus*, giving *dacotensis* a more yellowish grizzled appearance; general abdominal area uniform ivory-yellow; the white median line extends from the middle of the face to near the shoulders; chin slightly brownish; ears blackish edged with white; limbs brownish black; upper side of tail grizzled cinnamon buff, under side of tail cinnamon buff.

On several pelages taken late in summer the facial area including the forehead (exclusive of median line), around the eyes and patches on side of head in front of ears are mummy brown (Ridgway); dorsal area hairs are a warm buff becoming dark brown subterminally, tipped with buff, giving them a grizzled brown appearance, while the abdominal area is a warm buff color.

Skull.—The skull is similar to that of *taxus* excepting that it is smaller; however, the teeth P⁴ and M¹ average proportionately as large or larger. In *dacotensis* the condylobasal length of five females measured

from 116 to 123.4 mm., or an average of 119.5; and four males measured from 120.6 to 125.3 or an average of 122.7.

Measurements.—Type: Skull condylobasal length, 120.6; zygomatic breadth, 79.1; breadth of brain case across mastoid processes, 75.2; interorbital breadth, 27.3; least postorbital constriction, 26.5; palatal length, 58.4; palatal constriction, 13; maxillary tooth row (alveoli), 41.5; crown length (outer side) of upper carnassial, 11.9; crown width of upper carnassial, 10.

Remarks.—*Taxidea taxus dacotensis* appears closely allied to the more northern *T. t. taxus* with which it undoubtedly intergrades. In comparison the condylobasal length of four adult male specimens of *T. t. taxus* from North Dakota measured from 128.6 to 132 mm., whereas four adult males of *T. t. dacotensis* from South Dakota measured from 120.6 to 125.3 mm.

Specimens examined.—Total 16 from South Dakota: Badlands, 1 (skull only); Dewey, Custer County, 2 (skulls only); Eagle Butte, Dewey County, 2 (skins and skulls); Faith, Meade County, 2 (1 skull only and 1 skin only); Folsom, Custer County, 8 (1 young skin and skull, 6 skulls only and 1 skin only); White River Valley, 1 (skull only).

Biological Surveys, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.